

## RELATION,

Of that sad and deplorable Fire, that hapned and brake out in *London*, the second of *September*, 1666. as it came from *Whitehall*, the 8th. of the same moneth, and there published by Authority.

ON the second instant at one of the clock in the Morning, there hapned to break out a sad and lamentable Fire, in *Pudding-lane* neer *New Fishstreet*, which falling out at that hour of the night, and in a quarter of the Town so close built with wooden pitched houses, spread it self so far before day, and with such distractions to the Inhabitants and Neighbours, that care was not taken for the timely preventing the further diffusion of it by pulling down houses, as ought to have been; so that this lamentable Fire in a short time became too big to be mastered by any Engine or working neer it. It fell out most unhappily too, That a violent Easterly wind fomerred it, and kept it burning all that day, and the night following, spreading it self up to *Grace-Church street*, and downwards from *Cannon street* to the water-side as far as the *Three Cranes in the Vintry*. The People in all parts about it distracted with the vastness of it, and their particular care to carry away their Goods, many attempts were made to prevent the spreading of it, by pulling down Houses, and making great Intervals; but all in vain, the Fire seising upon the Timber and Rubbish, and so continuing it self, even through those spaces, and raging in a bright Flame all Monday and Tuesday, notwithstanding his Majesties own, and his Royal Highness's indefatigable and personall pains to apply all possible remedies to prevent it, calling upon, and helping the people with their Guards; and a great number of Nobility and Gentry unweariedly assisting therein, for which they were requited with a thousand blessings from the poor distressed people. By the favour of God the Wind slackned a little on Tuesday night, and the Flames meeting with Brick-buildings at the Temple, by little and little it was observed to lose it's force on that side, so that on Wednesday morning, we began to hope well, and his Royal Highness never despairing or slackning his personal care, wrought so well that day, assisted in some parts by the Lords of the Council before and behind it, that a stop was put to it at the Temple Church, neer Holborn-bridge, Pie-corner, Alders-gate, Cripple-gate, neer the lower end of Colemanstreet, at the end of Basing-hall-street by the Postern, at the upper end of Bishopsgate-street, and Loaden-hall-street, at the Standard in Cornhill, at the Church in Fan-church-street, neer Clothworkes-hall in Mincing lane, at the middle of Mark-lane, and at the Tower dock. On Thursday by the blessing of God it was wholly beat down and extinguished; but so as that Evening it unhappily burst out again afresh at the Temple, by the falling of some sparks (as is supposed) upon a pile of Wooden buildings, But his Royal Highness who watched there that whole night in Person, by the great labours and diligence used, and especially Powder to blow up the Houses about it, before day most happily mastered it. Divers Strangers, Dutch and French, were, during the Fire, apprehended, upon suspicion that they contributed mischievously to it, who are all Imprisoned, and Informations prepared to make a severe inquisition thereupon by my Lord Chief Justice Keeling, assisted by some of the Lords of the Privy Council, and some principal Members of the City; notwithstanding which suspitions, the manner of the burning all along in a Train, and so blown forwards in all it's way by strong winds, makes us conclude, the whole was the effect of an unhappy chance, or to speak better, the heavy hand of God upon us for our sins, shewing us the terrour of his Judgment in thus raising the fire; and immediately after, his miraculous, and never enough to be acknowledged Mercy in putting a stop to it when we were in the last despair, and that all attempts for the quenching it, however industriously pursued, seemed insufficient. His Majesty then sat hourly in Council, and ever since hath continued making rounds about the City in all parts of it where the danger and mischief was greatest, till this morning that he hath sent his Grace the Duke of Albemarle, whom he hath called for to assist him in this great occasion, to put his happy and successfull hand to the finishing this memorable deliverance. About the Tower the seasonable orders given for plucking down Houses to secure the Magazines of Powder, was more especially successful, that part being up the Wind, notwithstanding which it came almost to the very Gates of it, so as by this early provision, the severall stores of War lodged in the Tower were entirely saved: And we have further this infinite cause particularly to give God thanks that the Fire did not happen in any of those places where his Majesties Naval stores are kept, so as tho it hath pleased God to visit us with his own hand, he hath not, by dis-furnishing us with the means of carrying on the War, subjected us to our enemies. It must be observed, that this Fire happened in a part of the Town, where tho the Commodities were not very rich, yet they were so bulky that they could not well be removed, so that the Inhabitants of that part where it first began have sustained very great loss, but by the best inquiry we can make, the other parts of the Town, where the Commodities were of greater value, took the Alarm so early, that they saved most of their Goods of value, which possibly may have diminished the loss; though some think, that if the whole industry of the Inhabitants had been applyed to the stopping of the fire, and not to the saving of their particular Goods, the success might have been much better, not onely to the Publick, but to many of them in their own particulars. Through this sad Accident, it is easie to be imagined how many Persons were necessitated to remove themselves and Goods into the open fields, where they were forced to continue some time, which could not but work compassion in the beholders; but his Majesties care was most signall in this occasion, who, besides his personall pains, was frequent in consulting all wayes for relieving those distressed persons, which produced so good effect, as well by his Majesties Proclamations, and the Orders issued to the Neighbour Justices of the Peace, to encourage the sending in provisions to the Markets which are publicly known, as by other directions, that when his Majesty, fearing lest other Orders might not have been sufficient, had commanded the Victualer of his Navy, to send Bread into Moor-fields, for the relief of the poor, which for more speedy supply he sent in Bisket out of the Sea stores; it was found, that the Markets had been already so well supplied, that the people, being unaccustomed to that kind of Bread, declined it, and so it was returned in great part to his Majesties Stores again, without use made of it.

And we cannot but observe, to the confutation of all his Majesties Enemies, who endeavoured to perswade the World abroad of great parties and disaffection at home against his Majesties Government; That a greater instance of the affections of this City could never be given, then hath been now given in this sad and deplorable Accident, when, if at any time disorder might have been expected from the losses, distractions, and almost desperation of some persons in their private fortunes, thousands of people not having had Habitations to cover them. And yet, in all this time, it hath been so far from any appearance of designs, or attempts against his Majesties Government, that his Majesty and his Royal Brother, out of their care to stop and prevent the fire, frequently exposing their Persons with very small attendants in all parts of the Town, sometimes even to be intermixed with those who laboured in the business; yet nevertheless, there hath not been observed so much as a murmuring word to fall from any; but on the contrary, even those persons whose losses rendered their conditions most desperate, and to be fit objects of others Prayers, beholding those frequent instances of his Majesties care of his people, forgot their own misery, and filled the Streets with their Prayers for his Majesty, whose trouble they seemed to compassionate before their own.